Calgary
Weekly Newscasts Lesson Plan

Newscasts are current news stories read at a slower pace than you might hear on the radio. These are prepared by CBC news editor Rosa Marchitelli.

Objectives:
- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase awareness of grammatical structures and functional language
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide a user-friendly, self-study tool for learners, as well as, an ESL classroom resource for instructors

Contents:

Three news stories are featured in each weekly lesson plan. Each lesson contains helpful vocabulary explanations and listening comprehension activities. At the end of each lesson you will find a complete transcript and an answer key. This lesson plan is geared towards learners at an intermediate language level (i.e. Canadian Language Benchmarks 4-5 or equivalent).

CBC

Alberta
Government

Lesson Plan prepared by Kathleen Hall and Deidre Lake, Communication4Integration Inc.

Communication
4Integration

Calgary gas prices surge above national average in a rare occurrence: Slowdowns in Midwest refineries, bulging U.S. demand and low Canadian dollar cited as reasons for price spike.

General Warm-up Activity

What do you and your family buy every week? These things are your household costs. How are you and your family affected by price increases on these items? Can you think of a recent example where the rise in price of an important household item has had an impact on you or your family? How important is gas to your daily life?

Before you listen to the news story, complete the vocabulary activities. These will help you to understand the listening more easily.

VOCABULARY

Complete the vocabulary activities below before listening to the news story.

Vocabulary Building Activity 1: Creating Awareness

Look at the words below. Circle the words you do not know.

spike	average	analyst	refinery	volatile	to blame
slowdown	shutdown	demand	major	decade	create
perfect storm					

Vocabulary Building Activity 2: Developing Knowledge

Match the words with the definitions provided.

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. spike	a) a period of ten years
	2. analyst	b) Synonyms: important, serious, or significant
	3. Slowdown	c) closure of a factory or plant
	4. shutdown	d) the amount, or level that is typical of a group of people or things
	5. refinery	e) likely to change suddenly or expectantly
	6. volatile	f) The amount of a good or service that a consumers want to purchase
	7. major	g) to rise quickly and reach a high value
	8. average	h) a reduction in speed, activity, or the rate that things are produced
	9. demand	i) a factory where substances in their natural state, such as oil or sugar, are made pure
	10. decade	j) Synonyms: cause, make, start
	11. create	k) A person who reviews and examines data or information for a specific area
	12. to blame	l) to be responsible, to be at fault

(See the answer key for answers)

Expression:

perfect storm: rare combination of a number of negative and unexpected factors.

Questions:

Can you think of an example of a **perfect storm**?

LISTENING

Complete the listening activities below in order.

Pre-listening Activity

Look at the title: **Gas Price Increase**. How do increases in gas prices affect you?

Listening Activity 1: Listening for comprehension

First, listen for overall comprehension. See the questions below to assist you.
1. Where have the prices increased?
2. Does this happen often?
3. How high have the prices reached?
4. Where are the refineries that are at fault?
5. What else may have caused the rise in prices?

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity 2: Listening for specific vocabulary

Now listen to the news story for a second time. This time listen for the vocabulary words that you learned earlier. Raise your hand or make a mark each time you hear one of the words.

Listening Activity 3: Final Listening

Now listen to the news story for a third time. This time, make a note of:

• other words that you do not understand;
• questions that you have; or
• observations.

Conclusion:

Alberta is a major oil producer. What do you think should be done so that Albertans do not pay more for oils than other provinces or countries that do not have oil?

Language Focus:
Talking about Charts and Graphs

The prices for regular gasoline (as of 10/2/2015)

Area	Average Price	Trend
New Brunswick	0.98	→
Nova Scotia	0.99	→
Ontario	1.00	↑
PEI	1.00	↓
Newfoundland	1.06	↑
Saskatchewan	1.07	↑
Alberta	1.09	↓
Quebec	1.09	↓
Manitoba	1.09	↑
British Columbia	1.13	→
Northwest Territories	1.21	→

First, you should look at the title of the table. Then look at the titles for the three categories. Do you understand what the graph is about?

What do the numbers in the Average Price column represent (mean)?

1. **Dollars and cents**
2. **Points**
3. **Percentage**

Look at the following definitions of **trend**. Which is the best definition for the table above:

1. a general direction in which something is developing or changing.
   "an upward trend in sales and profit margins"
   synonyms: tendency, movement, drift, swing, shift, course, current, direction, progression, inclination, leaning; "an upward trend in unemployment"

2. a fashion.
   "the latest trends in modern dance"
   synonyms: fashion, vogue, style, mode, craze, mania, rage; "the latest trend in dance music"

3. a topic that is the subject of many posts on a social media website within a short period of time.
   "for more than 20 days in a row, most of the top Twitter trends were Olympics-related".

Look at the arrows in the trends column. Write the correct trend beside each arrow.

increased

declined

remained the same

➡️ _____

🔺 _____

🔻 _____

Using the title of the chart, and the vocabulary you wrote beside each arrow, make a sentence about the trends in gas prices **in**:

Example: **The price for regular gas** in Quebec **declined**.

_____**Nova Scotia** _____.

_____**Newfoundland** _____.

_____ **Alberta**_____.

By using the phrases:

(has) increased to

(has) declined to

(has) remained the same at

you can include the average price column. At the end of the sentences you have already made.

For example: The price of gasoline in Manitoba has increased to $1.09

Or The price of gasoline in Manitoba increased to **$1.09 as of 10/2/20**.

(The present perfect: have/has and 3V (past participle) cannot be used if we say when the event or action occurred)

Make sentences about the trends and average price in Ontario, Alberta, and Saskatchewan.

1._____

2._____

3._____

More Canadians are 65 and over than under age 15, StatsCan says

More than 1 out of every 6 people in Canada over age 64 in July

CBC NewsPosted: Sep 29, 2015 10:24 AM ETLast Updated: Sep 29, 2015 8:01 PM ET

General Warm-up Activity

In your home or neighbourhood are there more seniors or children?

VOCABULARY

Before you listen to the news story, look at the words/expressions below and their meanings.
These will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Word/ Phrasal Verb	Meaning
according to	in the opinion of, stated by, as believed by, reported by
milestone	an action or event marking an important change or stage in development
demographer	a person who studies changes in human population such as size, growth, births, marriages, deaths, etc.
baby boomer	a person born in the years following World War II, between the years 1946 and 1964, when there was a clear increase in the birth rate
proportion	a part, share, piece, amount, or number of a larger whole.
conversely	"the opposite" or "on the other hand." It is often used to introduce an idea that is different from one stated before.
cohort	a group of people who have something in common, usually age
statistics	The study of data/information: how to collect, summarize and present it.

Word/ Phrasal Verb	Meaning
bulge	any sudden increase
pressure	stress, burden, force, strain
retired	finished working at a job or professional career.
pension	a regular payment made during a person's retirement
support	help, especially financially

LISTENING

Listening Activity 1: Listening for comprehension

Listen to the second news story from the audio file. First, listen for overall comprehension. See the questions below to assist you.

1. What two ages does the story mention?
2. Which province has the largest population of seniors? (people over 64)
3. What is the lowest proportion of seniors? Which territory has this population?
4. What two systems is Professor Moffat concerned about?

Decide if the following statements are true or false

1. There are now more seniors than children in Canada. _____
2. The proportion of seniors is the same across the country. _____
3. Alberta has a lower rate of seniors than Nunavut. _____
4. It will be difficult for working people to support the Pension system. _____

Listening Activity 2: Listening for specific purposes

Listen again. This time fill in the blanks below with what you hear.

_____Statistics Canada, there are more people in Canada age 65

and over than there are 15 and under. Canada met a _____ that

_____ have seen coming for a long time.

The _____ of _____isn't increasing evenly across

Canada, however. Of the provinces, New Brunswick had the highest _____

of over 64s, at 19 per cent of the province's total population. Alberta had the lowest

_____, at 11.6 per cent. _____, in Canada, Nunavut

was at 3.7 per cent.

Professor Mike Moffat of the Richard Ivey School of business in London, Ontario says, "As the

Canadian population gets older, we've got more and more _____people.

That puts more _____ on the health system and _____

system as we have a smaller _____ of working age people to

_____ that."

(See the answer key for answers)

Listening Activity 3: Final Listening

Now listen to the news story for a third time. This time, make a note of:

- other words that you do not understand;
- questions that you have; or
- observations about grammatical or lexical items.

Discussion Questions:

What are the problems with an aging population? Do you think the increase in seniors will negatively affect Canada's future? Why or why not?

Language Focus:

Talking about Charts and Graphs

First, you should look at the title of the graph then look at the titles for the x and y axis so that you understand what the graph is about.

Title

Y axis

X axis

Growth of Canadian Seniors and Children under 15

Number of Canadians

Year
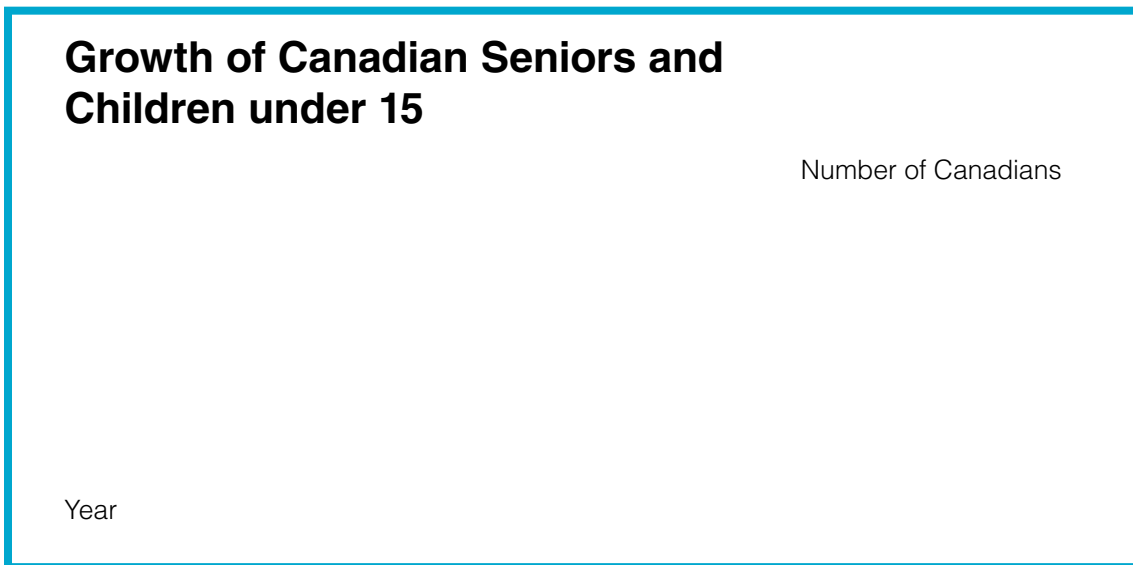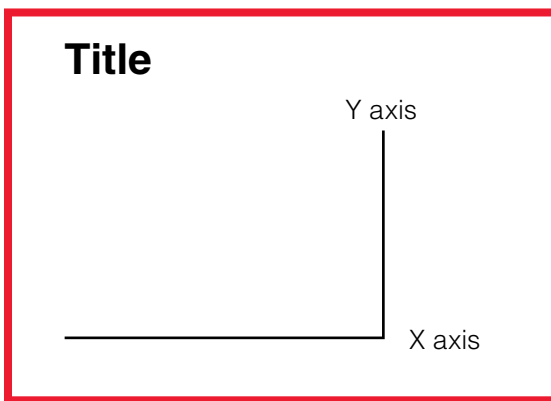
Canada now has more seniors than kids under 15

■ Under 15 ■ Over 64

11 million people
9 million people
8 million people
6 million people
5 million people
3 million people

'95 '00 '05 '10 '15 '20 '25 '30 '35
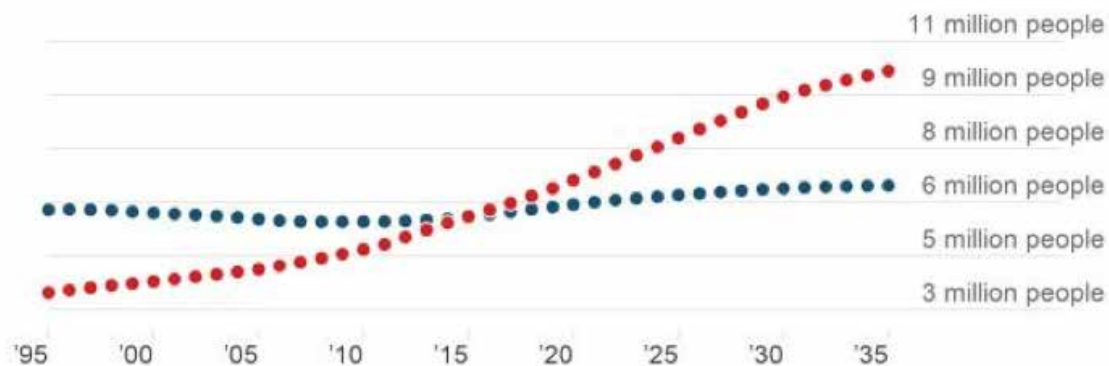
Source: Statistics Canada

Made with Chartbuilder

If current population trends continue, Statistics Canada estimates that seniors will outnumber children in Canada by a factor of three to two in 20 years' time. (Pete Evans/CBC)

What is this graph about?

_____

What does the Y axis show?

_____

What does the x axis show?

_____

This graph looks at past, present and future growth of seniors and children under 15.

We have to use past, present, and future tense to talk about this graph.

Add the past and future tense to the vocabulary table below. You may use a dictionary or grammar book to check for irregular verbs.

Expressing the Movement of a Line			
	Past	**Future with will**	
Verbs			**Nouns**
⬆			⬆
Rise (to)	Rose to	Will rise to	a rise
Increase (to)			an increase
Go up to			
Grow (to)			growth
Climb (to)			a climb
Boom			a boom
Peak (at)			(reach) a peak (at)
⬇			⬇
Fall (to)			a fall (of)
Decline (to)			a decline (of)
Decrease (to)			a decrease (of)
Dip (to)			a dip (of)
Drop (to)			a drop (of)
Go down (to)			
Reduce (to)			a reduction (of)
			A slump
➡			➡
Level out			a leveling out
No change			no change
Remain stable (at)			
Remain steady (at)			
Stay (at)			
Stay constant (at)			
Maintain the same level			

Using this new vocabulary, make 3 sentences describing the growth of seniors and children under 15 in 2005, 2015, and 2030.

Example: In 2000, the growth of seniors **rose to** four million.

_____

_____

_____

NEWSCAST 3 (International) King Tut

King Tut's coffin lies behind a glass case at the Valley of the Kings in Luxor, Egypt. (Nariman El-Mofty/Associated Press)

General Warm-up Activity

What do you know about King Tut's tomb? Have you ever been to a King Tut exhibition? Have you heard of queens of Egypt?

VOCABULARY

Before you listen to the news story, complete the vocabulary activity below. This will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary Activity 1: Finding Meaning Using Synonyms

Choose the group of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words.

Answer	Word used in news story	Synonyms
	1) alleged	a) force drive strength
	2) momentum	b) Ancient times the distant past, relic
	3) Antiquities	c) refresh stimulate energize
	4) revive	d) very extremely enormously
	5) tremendously	e) exiling overthrowing expelling
	6) ousting	f) sure positive persuaded

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Answer	Word used in news story	Synonyms
	7) convinced	g) grave burial place
	8) tomb	h) compartment space
	9) chamber	i) tomb
	10) final resting place	h) unproven supposed suspected

(See the answer key for answers)

LISTENING

Listening Activity 1: Listening for comprehension

Listen to the third news story from the audio file. Listen for overall comprehension.

Listening Activity 2: Listening for specific purposes

Listen to the news story again. While you listen, take notes to respond to the following questions.

QUESTIONS	NOTES/RESPONSES
1) In which country does this story take place?	
2) Whose tomb are they searching?	
3) Who are they searching for?	
4) Who is convinced that they will find her?	
5) What is Hesham Zazou's job? What does he hope?	1 2
6) When did tourism drop off? Why?	1 2

(See the answer key for answers)

Additional Activities:

1) Compare your answers with a partner or colleague if doing this in a classroom setting or with a colleague.
2) Use your notes to retell this story in English to a friend or family member to practice your speaking skills.

Discussion Questions:

Have you been to Egypt. If not, would you consider visiting Egypt as a tourist? Why would you like to visit Egypt?

	WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi. This is Rosa Marchitelli. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of October 5th.	0:00
Story 3 (National)	Gas prices in Calgary have spiked above the national average - something that has only happened a few times in the past decade.	0:07
	Average prices reached $1.12 per litre. GasBuddy.com analyst Dan McTeague says slowdowns and shutdowns at major refineries in the US Midwest are largely to blame. These refineries feed gas to the Prairie provinces. These shutdowns combined with a huge demand for gasoline in the United States and a weak Canadian dollar create a perfect storm for price volatility.	
More People Aged 65 and Older (National)	According to Statistics Canada, there are more people in Canada age 65 and over than there are 15 and under. Canada met a milestone that demographers have seen coming for a long time.	0:49
	The bulge of baby boomers isn't increasing evenly across Canada, however. Of the provinces, New Brunswick had the highest proportion of over 64s, at 19 per cent of the province's total population. Alberta had the lowest proportion, at 11.6 per cent. Conversely, in Canada, Nunavut was at 3.7 per cent.	
	Professor Mike Moffat of the Richard Ivey School of business in London, Ontario says, "As the Canadian population gets older, we've got more and more retired people. That puts more pressure on the health system and pension system as we have a smaller cohort of working age people to support that."	
King Tut (International)	The search for ancient Egypt's Queen Nefertiti in an alleged hidden chamber in King Tut's tomb gained new momentum this week. Egypt's Antiquities Minister said he is now more convinced a queen's tomb may lie hidden behind Kung Tut's final resting place.	1:50
	Tourism Minister Hesham Zazou said he hopes the new discovery will revive tourism in ancient Egyptian sites as tourism has suffered tremendously following the 2011 ousting of President Hosni Mubarak.	

Vocabulary Building Activity 2: Developing Knowledge

Match the words with the definitions provided.

Answer	Word	Definition
G	1. spike	a) a period of ten years
K	2. analyst	b) Synonyms: important, serious, or significant
H	3. Slowdown	c) closure of a factory or plant
C	4. shutdown	d) the amount, or level that is typical of a group of people or things
I	5. refinery	e) likely to change suddenly or expectantly
E	6. volatile	f) The amount of a good or service that a consumers want to purchase
B	7. major	g) to rise quickly and reach a high value
D	8. average	h) a reduction in speed, activity, or the rate that things are produced
F	9. demand	i) a factory where substances in their natural state, such as oil or sugar, are made pure
A	10. decade	j) Synonyms: cause, make, start
J	11. create	k) A person who reviews and examines data or information for a specific area
L	12. to blame	l) to be responsible, to be at fault

Listening Activity 1: Listening for comprehension

First, listen for overall comprehension. See the questions below to assist you.

1. Where have the prices increased?

   Calgary

2. Does this happen often?

   No

3. How high have the prices reached?

   $1.12

4. Where are the refineries that are at fault?

   US Midwest

5. What else cause the rise in prices?

   Demand in the United States, and a weak Canadian dollar

Language Focus:
Talking about Charts and Graphs

What do the numbers in the Average Price column represent (mean)?

1. Dollars and cents

Look at the following definitions of **trend**. Which is the best definition for the table above:

1. a general direction in which something is developing or changing.

"an upward trend in sales and profit margins"

Look at the arrows in the trends column. Write the correct trend beside each arrow.

remained the same

increased

declined

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWS STORY 2: MORE PEOPLE AGED 65 AND OLDER

Listening Activity 1: Listening for comprehension

Listen to the second news story from the audio file. First, listen for overall comprehension. See the questions below to assist you.

1. What two ages does the story mention?
   15 and 65

2. Which province has the largest population of seniors? (people over 64)
   New Brunswick

3. What is the lowest proportion of seniors?
   3.7%

4. Which territory has this population?
   Nunuvit

5. What two systems is Professor Moffat concerned about?
   Health and pension

Decide if the following statements are true or false

1. There are now more seniors than children in Canada. T
2. The proportion of seniors is the same across the country. F
3. Alberta has a lower rate of seniors than Nunavut. F
4. It will be difficult for working people to support the Pension system. T

Listening Activity 2: Listening for specific purposes

Listen again. This time fill in the blanks below with what you hear.

According to Statistics Canada, there are more people in Canada age 65 and over than there are 15 and under. Canada met a milestone that demographers have seen coming for a long time.

The bulge of baby boomers isn't increasing evenly across Canada, however. Of the provinces, New Brunswick had the highest proportion of over 64s, at 19 per cent of the province's total population. Alberta had the lowest proportion, at 11.6 per cent. Conversely, in Canada, Nunavut was at 3.7 per cent.

Professor Mike Moffat of the Richard Ivey School of business in London, Ontario says, "As the Canadian population gets older, we've got more and more retired people. That puts more pressure on the health system and pension system as we have a smaller cohort of working age people to support that."

Language Focus: Talking about charts and graphs

What is this graph about?

　　Growth of Canadian Seniors and Children under 15

What is the Y axis?

　　Numbers of Canadian people

What is the x axis?

　　Years from 1995 to 2035

Add the past and future tense to the vocabulary table below. You may use a dictionary or grammar book to check for irregular verbs.

Expressing the Movement of a Line			
	Past	**Future with will**	
Verbs			**Nouns**
⬆			⬆
Rise (to)	Rose to	Will rise to	a rise
Increase (to)	Increased to	Will increase	an increase
Go up to	Went up to	Will go up	
Grow (to)	Grew to	Will grow	growth
Climb (to)	Climbed to	Will climb	a climb
Boom	Boomed	Will boom	a boom
Peak (at)	Peaked at	Will peak at	(reach) a peak (at)
⬇			⬇
Fall (to)	Fell to	Will fall to	a fall (of)
Decline (to)	Declined to	Will decline to	a decline (of)
Decrease (to)	Decreased to	Will decrease to	a decrease (of)
Dip (to)	Dipped to	Will dip to	a dip (of)
Drop (to)	Dropped to	Will drop to	a drop (of)
Go down (to)	Went down to	Will go down to	

Expressing the Movement of a Line

Verbs	Past	Future with will	Nouns
Reduce (to)	Reduced to	Will reduce to	a reduction (of)
			A slump
➡			➡
Level out	Leveled out	Will level out	a leveling out
No change	Did not change	Will not change	no change
Remain stable (at)	Remained stable	Will remain stable	
Remain steady (at)	Remained steady	Will remain steady	
Stay (at)	Stayed	Will stay at	
Stay constant (at)	Stayed constant	Will stay constant at	
Maintain the same level	Maintained the same level	Will	

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWS STORY 3:

Vocabulary Activity 1: Finding Meaning Using Synonyms

Answer	Word used in news story	Synonyms
J	1) alleged	a) force drive strength
A	2) momentum	b) ancient times the distant past, relic
B	3) Antiquities	c) refresh stimulate energize
C	4) revive	d) very extremely enormously
D	5) tremendously	e) exiling overthrowing expelling
E	6) ousting	f) sure positive persuaded
F	7) convinced	g) grave burial place
G	8) tomb	h) compartment space
H	9) chamber	i) tomb
I	10) final resting place	j) unproven supposed suspected

Listening Activity 2: Listening for specific purposes

Listening Activity 2: Listening for specific purposes

Listen to the news story again. While you listen, take notes to respond to the following questions.

QUESTIONS	NOTES/RESPONSES
In which country does this story take place?	Egypt
Whose tomb are they searching?	King Tut`s
Who are they searching for?	Queen Nefertiti
Who is convinced that they will find her?	Egypt's Antiquities Minister
What is Hesham Zazou's job?	1 Tourism Minister
What does he hope?	2 The new discovery will revive tourism
When did tourism drop off?	1 2011
Why?	2 The ousting of President Hosni Mubarak